

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 12707 061119Z

44

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01

DRC-01 IO-14 /124 W

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R 061038Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5700

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E.O 11652: N/A

TAG: ETRN, TH

SUBJECT CIVAIR: USG-RTG CONSULTATIONS

REF: BANGKOK 12575 AND PRECEDING

1. IN AUGUST 5 INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF CIVAIR RELATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, DR. SRISOOK CHANDRANGSU, SECRETARY OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AVIATION, MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. RTG IS PROCEEDING ON BASIS THAT USG-RTG CIVAIR TALKS WILL RESUME IN BANGKOK IN PERIOD SEPTEMBER 1-15, WITH EARLY OCTOBER AS FALLBACK DATE;

B. RTG HAD ANTICIPATED THAT "CONCESSION" IN SPRING 1974 TO PERMIT PANAM TO OPERATE ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES, FOLLOWING PERMISSION LAST YEAR FOR FLYING TIGERS TO INAUGURATE ALL-CARGO SERVICE HERE, WOULD GENERATE GOOD WILL WHICH WOULD BE RECIPROCATED BY USG IN TALKS IN JUNE; IN PRACTICE, USG HAD NOT, IN EFFECT, REPAID RTG;

C. RTG HAD SOUGHT EXTENSIVE NEW ROUTE RIGHTS IN JUNE TALKS, AND, AFTER REPORTING RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS

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PAGE 02 BANGKO 12707 061119Z

TO CABINET, HAD NOT MODIFIED POSITION FOR UPCOMING TALKS.

RTG HAD IN GENERAL FOUND ITS INTERESTS BEST SERVED BY SECURING NEW ROUTE RIGHTS FAR IN ADVANCE OF ABILITY TO SERVE THOSE ROUTES, AND HAD BEEN DISAPPOINTED IN NUMBER OF INSTANCES WHEN IT WAITED TOO LONG TO SEEK NEW OR EXPANDED ROUTE RIGHTS;

D. THE MAIN THRUST FOR ADDITIONAL POINTS IN THE US CAME FROM WITHIN THE MINISTRIES IN THE RTG; THE INTEREST IN GUAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS GENERATED MAINLY BY THAI INTERNATIONAL AND AIR SIAM WHICH HAVE ACTIVE PLANS TO SERVE THAT POINT;

E. THE TALKS IN JUNE WERE LARGELY EXPLORATORY, BUT THE PROSPECTS ARE GOOD FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN THE NEXT ROUND. RTG WILL BE MORE REALISTIC IN ITS DEMANDS, PROVIDING THERE IS SOME GIVE IN THE USG POSITION.

F. THE RTG HAS A CAPACITY ARTICLE IN MOST OF ITS BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. THIS MAKES POSSIBLE BROAD GRANTS OF RIGHTS BILATERALLY, WHICH SERVES DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES, BUT PERMITS GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL CAPACITY AND THUS ENSURE AIRLINE PROFITABILITY;

G. THAI INTERNATIONAL WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO SHOW A PROFIT DESPITE INCREASED FUEL COSTS, BUT AIR SIAM'S PROFITABILITY CLAIMS ARE EXAGGERATED AND POSSIBLY UNTRUE.

2. EMBOFFS INDICATED TO SRISOOK THAT HIS VIEWS ON EARLY SEPTEMBER TALKS WOULD BE CONVEYED TO WASHINGTON BUT DID NOT COMMENT ON VENUE. EMBOFFS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN JUNE THE DELEGATIONS DISCUSSED RESUMPTION OF CONSULTATIONS IN FALL, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IN VIEW HEAVY US NEGOTIATION SCHEDULE, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR RTG AT EARLY DATE TO SEND US FORMAL REQUEST FOR NEW CONSULTATIONS AS PER PARA (1) (A).

3. SEPTEMBER 15-30 NOT CONVENIENT FOR RTG SINCE SRISOOK'S FATHER, DR. SIRILAK, WHO WILL CHAIR THAI DELEGATION AGAIN IN "ROUND TWO" CONSULTATIONS, WITH US, PLANS TO DEPART FOR ICAO SESSIONS IN MONTREAL LATE IN MONTH. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS, MAKING CLEAR THAT IT NOT RPT NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 12707 061119Z

REALISTIC IN TERMS OF EITHER USG DOMESTIC OR INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS FOR RTG TO SEEK AT THIS TIME EXTENSIVE NUMBER OF NEW POINTS IN THE US. THEY STRESSED THAT ACCESS TO CHICAGO IN PARTICULAR IS SIMPLY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

4. SHOULD DEPARTMENT WANT TO PROPOSE HOLDING TALKS IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING DR. SIRILAK'S TRIP TO MONTREAL, REQUEST EMBASSY BE INFORMED ASAP SO THAT SOUNDINGS MAY BE MADE HERE

IN GOOD TIME TO DETERMINE RTG REACTION. HOWEVER, REGARDLESS
OF VENUE, BELIEVE HIGHLY DESIRABLE USG BE PREPARED GRANT
RTG MINIMUM DEMANDS. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD CREATE RISK
OF GENERATING NEW AND UNNECESSARY PRESSURES ON RTG AND USG
INTERESTS, PARTICULARLY IF MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND THAI
DELEGATION THEREFORE REQUIRE TO RETURN FROM SUCH TALKS EMPTY-HANDED.
RELATION OF OUTCOME OF THESE TALKS TO US POLITICAL/SECURITY
INTERESTS IN THAILAND SET FORTH REFTEL. EMBASSY WILL
CONTINUE TO PROBE RTG INTENTIONS AND OBJECTIVES.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CIVIL AVIATION, NEGOTIATIONS, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO12707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740214-0244
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740872/aaaacjuh.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 12575 AND PRECEDING
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: USG-RTG CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: ETRN, TH, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005